FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT
OLD WATER HOLE – PELHAM RANGE, PARCEL 205(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

MAY 2004

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Old Water Hole – Pelham Range, Parcel 205(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Old Water Hole, Parcel 205(7) is located within Pelham Range at FTMC as shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of investigations completed at the Old Water Hole, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Old Water Hole, Parcel 205(7). The background documents for Parcel 205(7) are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 205(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, January.

IT Corporation, 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. (Parsons), 2002, ***Draft Site Investigation Report for Pelham Range Sites, Lima Pond, The Old Water Hole, and Former Decontamination Area South of Toxic Gas Area, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** May.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 2000, ***Final Remedial Investigation/Baseline Risk Assessment Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, July.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2004, ***Final Supplemental RI Results, Old Water Hole – Pelham Range, Parcel 205(7),*** May.

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (CHPPM), 1999, ***Draft Preliminary Assessment No. 38-EH-1775-99, Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, June.

the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

Parcel 205(7) is an approximately 9-acre area located within Training Area 5C in the northeast region of Pelham Range (Figure 1). The Old Water Hole is an irregularly shaped, shallow depression measuring approximately 60 by 120 feet. The site was reportedly used for the disposal of a variety of wastes, including chemical ordnance, supertropical bleach containers, fog oil drums, smoke pots, bullet shell casings, flares, and smoke rounds (U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine [CHPPM], 1999).

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

In 1992, the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit conducted a qualitative metal detection sweep of the site. The metal detection sweep suggested the potential for buried metallic objects.

In 1995, Science Applications International Corporations (SAIC) conducted a remedial investigation (RI) at the Old Water Hole consisting of a geophysical survey, miniature continuous air monitoring system (MINICAMS) screening for chemical agents, collection and analysis of seven soil samples, and installation and sampling of five groundwater monitoring wells. The geophysical survey identified some subsurface anomalies; however, there was no indication of large-scale burial. Chemical agents were not detected using MINICAMS. Soil analytical results indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC). Chemical agent breakdown products and explosive compounds were not detected. The groundwater analytical results indicated the presence of metals, SVOCs, and pesticides with isolated detections of explosive compounds and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). The RI concluded that there was no current or imminent hazard at the Old Water Hole based on its present land use (i.e., military training). However, under other reuse scenarios (e.g., residential or industrial), the RI identified chemicals of concern in groundwater including metals, SVOCs, pesticides, one PCB, and

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

one explosive compound.

Constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC) identified were benzyl alcohol and phenol in surface soil. The RI recommended additional surface and subsurface soil sampling to complete the evaluation of the study area (SAIC, 2000).

In 2002, Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. (Parsons) conducted a site investigation (SI) to determine the presence or absence of chemical warfare materials (CWM). The SI consisted of exploratory excavation of geophysical anomalies previously identified by SAIC and the collection and analysis of six soil samples. Field air monitoring and subsequent laboratory analysis for CWM and related breakdown products did not indicate the presence of chemical agents. Furthermore, no CWM-related items were discovered during the investigation (Parsons, 2002).

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). All parcels received a designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 205(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the EBS. Category 7 parcels are areas that have not been evaluated or that require additional evaluation to determine their environmental condition.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 205(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of CERCLA-related hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response (ESE, 1998).

SUPPLEMENTAL REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw) conducted supplemental RI activities at the Old Water Hole to confirm the presence of chemical constituents previously identified (Shaw, 2004). The investigation consisted of the collection and analysis of six surface soil samples, six subsurface soil samples, and nine groundwater samples. In addition, four monitoring wells were installed at the site to facilitate groundwater sample collection and to provide site-specific geological and hydrogeological information. Five existing wells at the site were also sampled during the investigation. All samples were analyzed for metals, VOCs, SVOCs, explosives, and CWM breakdown products. The groundwater samples were also analyzed for pesticides, herbicides, and PCBs.

Metals and VOCs were detected in the various site media. In addition, one CWM breakdown product was detected in one groundwater sample. To evaluate whether the detected constituents pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk assessments for investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals results exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (SAIC, 1998). Site metals data were also evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site media were naturally occurring.

Chemicals of potential concern (COPC) included three metals (arsenic, chromium, and iron) in two soil samples and chromium in two groundwater samples. COPECs were limited to four metals (arsenic, chromium, iron, and selenium) in one surface soil sample each. However, the statistical and geochemical evaluation concluded that all of the metals detected in site media were present at naturally occurring levels.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Old Water Hole, Parcel 205(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the Old Water Hole. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances.

With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Old Water Hole, Parcel 205(7). There are no remedial costs associated with this course of action.

DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Old Water Hole, Parcel 205(7). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail:
LevyR@mcclellan.army.mil

ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CHPPM	U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
COPC	chemical of potential concern
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
CWM	chemical warfare material
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EBS	environmental baseline survey
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
MINICAMS	miniature continuous air monitoring system
Parsons	Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
RI	remedial investigation
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
Shaw	Shaw Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

Lee D. Coker
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

Date

Reviewed by:

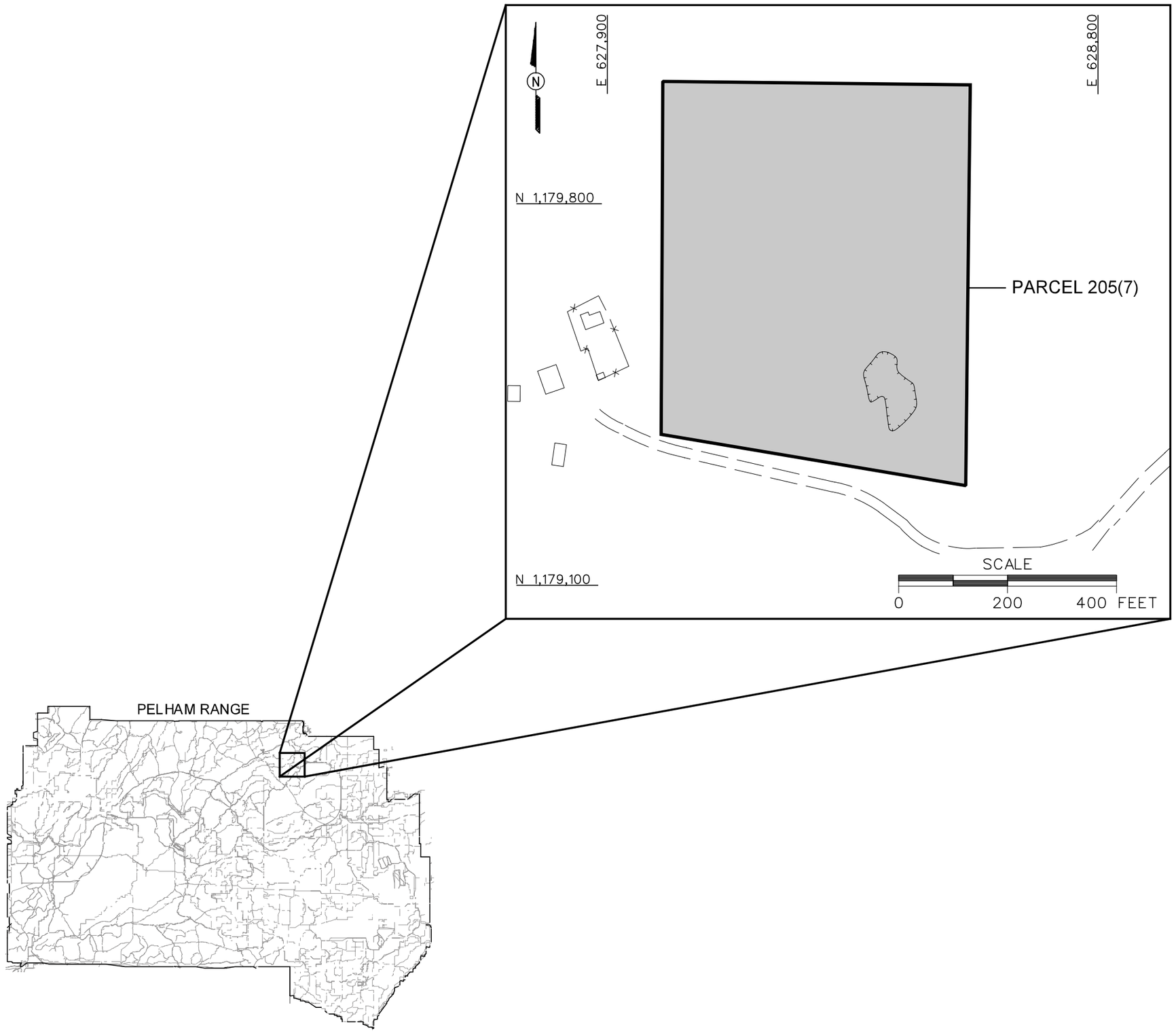
Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Gary E. Harvey
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date



LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- BUILDING
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- FENCE
- DEPRESSION

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
OLD WATER HOLE
PARCEL 205(7)

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT
FORT McCLELLAN
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018

Shaw™ Shaw Environmental, Inc.

DWG. NO.: ...\774645aa.002 | PROJ. NO.: 774645
INITIATOR: N. BADON | PROJ. MGR.: J. YACOUB
DRAFT. CHCK. BY: | ENGR. CHCK. BY: S. MORAN
DATE LAST REV.: | DRAWN BY:
STARTING DATE: 04/17/03 | DRAWN BY: D. BOMAR
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